



United States Department of the Interior

Bureau of Land Management

Uncompahgre Field Office
2465 South Townsend Avenue
Montrose, Colorado 81401



MAY 6 2010

In Reply Refer to: 3420
COC70615

Dear Interested Party,

This letter notifies you that the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Uncompahgre Field Office (BLM), is continuing to review EA number CO-150-2008-53 and the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) dated February 2, 2010. No Decision Record will be issued on the EA until BLM completes its review and rereleases the environmental assessment and FONSI, if appropriate. This action will delay the federal competitive coal lease-by-application (LBA) sale until the review process is completed.

The EA that is undergoing further consideration analyzes the environmental effects of an application by Oxbow Mining, LLC (OML) for a federal competitive coal LBA near the Elk Creek Mine. This LBA would allow OML to access adjacent federal coal reserves as a logical extension east of the D-Seam workings in the Elk Creek Mine.

The Elk Creek East Tract (ECET) encompasses about 786 acres of BLM managed surface and mineral estate located about 1.5 miles northeast of Somerset, Colorado in Gunnison County, in T. 13 S. R. 90 W., 6th P.M. and generally described as follows:

T.13S., R.90W., 6th PM,

Sec. 3: Portion of W $\frac{1}{2}$;

Sec. 4: N $\frac{1}{2}$ and Portion of N $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$;

Sec. 5: Portion of E $\frac{1}{2}$.

You are receiving this letter because you provided comments during the scoping period for the EA, which ended on September 29, 2008.

Sincerely,

Barbara L. Sharrow
Field Manager